IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 3 at page 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Materials particularly used as an adsorbent obtained by reaction between reactive sites on oxide/hydroxide particles and a phosphorous-containing compound containing one or more organic acid groups have been described, for example, in United States patents 4,778,176 and 4,994,429. Those patents teach that such compounds are obtained by grafting the oxides/hydroxides using acidic compounds such as phosphonic or phosphinic acids. Grafting commences at a highly acidic pH, for example 1.8, causing the formation of aluminium phosphonate when the particles are alumina particles. Further, the use of acidic compounds to carry out grafting can lead to the formation of multi-layers, which is not helpful in most applications, particularly catalysis. Only USP 4,994,429 provides an example of an aluminium oxide grafted with a functional group containing sulphur in the form of a sulphonic group that is introduced by reacting the mineral solid, grafted using phenyl-phosphonic acid, with fuming sulphuric acid, i.e., containing sulphuric anhydride, a highly acidic medium with a non negligible risk of attack by alumina.

Please add the following new paragraph at page 5, before the title EXAMPLE 1:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The Figure shows NMR spectra of compounds produced in accordance with the invention.--